



**Hudson Community  
Enterprises**

68-70 Tuers Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Ph: 201-434-3303  
Fx: 201-434-3660  
[www.hudsoncommunity.org](http://www.hudsoncommunity.org)

780 Montgomery Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Ph: 201-432-5959  
Fx: 201-432-6227

# HCE News

*December 2011*

## *HCE Open House in Newark a Smash Success*



On Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, over 150 guests assembled to inaugurate the Essex County Offices of Hudson Community Enterprises in Newark. Lt Governor Kim Guadagno and Essex County Executive Joseph N. DeVincenzo Jr. joined representatives from business, state government and HCE Board of Directors and staff at a festive ribbon cutting and tour.

In opening remarks, Lt. Governor Guadagno commended HCE for its groundbreaking entrepreneurial efforts in employing people with disabilities through the innovative partnerships achieved between HCE and the State of New Jersey. County Executive DeVincenzo welcomed HCE to Essex County and congratulated all in their efforts to expand their services and businesses.

**Improving the Community One Person at a Time**

HCE President Maureen Walliser thanked all in her remarks, stating, "This day marks a significant expansion in our mission to bring our innovative social enterprise approach to chronically underserved areas. We have been open for business for over 55 years, and look forward to creating more job opportunities for people with disabilities in the greater Essex County area."

The state of the art facility at 550 Broad Street in Newark occupies over 91000 square feet of prime office space. The Newark offices house administrative and production facilities for Electronic Content Management, as well as offices for our Building Management Services, Security, and Shredding businesses. Extensive counseling and training facilities will allow HCE to better serve people with disabilities in Essex County.

## *HCE Receives Signature Grant from Kessler Foundation*

Hudson Community Enterprises has been exceptionally fortunate in its efforts to develop its social enterprise businesses. As it attempted to get these businesses off the ground in the most unsettling of times, it has received grant funding through the Kessler Foundation, which is the largest public charity in the field of disability, to start and grow these businesses. The mission of the Kessler Foundation is to improve quality of life for people with disabilities through discovery, innovation, demonstration, application, and dissemination. The Kessler Foundation Program Center fosters new approaches to the persistently high rates of unemployment among people disabled by injury or disease.



This month Hudson Community Enterprises was notified that once again the Kessler Foundation will be supported those efforts. As it businesses grow, integral to their success will be accessibility to the Trenton area which houses the seat of our state government.

The Kessler Foundation under its Signature Grant Program has notified HCE that it is the recipient of a two year grant of \$250,000 and as well as an interest free loan of \$250,000. These funds will be utilized to establish an Enterprise Content Management business (ECM) in Trenton, New Jersey that will operate as a social enterprise business. This business will identify agencies and departments within New Jersey State government which have the potential to provide subcontracting work opportunities for individuals with disabilities. During the duration of this grant 100 individuals with disabilities will be identified and receive training/employment in all aspects of Enterprise Content Management.

HCE thanks the Board of Trustees and all staff of the Kessler Foundation for this grant!

## ***Assemblyman Vincent Prieto Presents Award to Mark Kot***

Mark Kot, a Secaucus resident, recently was presented with the Employee of the Month Award. The award



was particularly special with its presentation by Assemblyman Vincent Prieto, who represents the 32<sup>nd</sup> legislative district. Mark has been attending HCE for over 10 years. He's well organized and he makes sure he completes all assignments that are given to him. He works very hard each day he's present. His attendance is exemplary. Very often he receives a perfect attendance award month after month after month. He's extremely dedicated to this agency. He always works hard at any our fulfillment business, but he has also worked for Metro Scanning program. Shortly,

Mark will be working at the Hudson County Administration Building on a project for the Hudson County Surrogate's office. All HCE workers know Mark in his role as a payroll assistant. This award is well deserved.

## ***Employee Spotlight***

Meet Ayana Mayes, a HCE security officer. Ayana is currently working part-time in Somerville for Somerset County Board of Social Services contract. Ayana is responsible for securing one of the Somerset County Board of Social Services buildings. This building is their main building that receives a few hundred visitors a day and has about 100 county workers. In her daily duties Ayana provides a presence in the client waiting area, and patrols the parking lot periodically and all floors of the building.



## ***Transition Students learn New Skills***



Students from Transition Services have joined together with Building Management Services to clean mop heads, rags and cleaning pads for the clients who are working at the Essex County Hospital site. Twice weekly the clients deliver dirty items to Tuers Ave. and students from Ms. Johnson's class have learned how to operate the washer and dryer to clean the items, sort, bag, and place the items in a designated pick up spot. We continually try to expose our students to hands on experiences of possible future employment opportunities.

## *Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Serves Two Hundred*

This year HCE held its seventh Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Almost 200 of our program participants enjoy all the trimmings of a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Special thanks to Board Member, Maureen Burns and Bruce Thomas for joining us in serving the food.



## *HCE's Building Management Services Workers Applauded*

With just over a month since HCE's workers began cleaning NJ Transit's Administrative offices in Newark, Frank Fittipoldi, Director of Organizational Services for NJ Transit, has declared the deal a resounding success. He noted that the "success is due in large part to the hard working individuals who perform the actual day-to-day work. He commented that "much credit goes to Bernie Lane and his supervisory team at Hudson Community Enterprises. He further went on to say that "they were well prepared to manage the transition, and have been doing an excellent job continually adjusting service to ensure all of our internal customers are satisfied. They truly espouse the best principals of customer service."

Considering that over 1,000 individuals occupy this building on a daily basis this is remarkable!

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## *HCE Businesses Continue to Offer New Employment Opportunities*

This month HCE continued to expand its opportunities for integrated community based employment. For two years HCE employees have been providing building management services at Essex County Hospital Center. This month six individuals from HCE's Extended Employment Program joined those employees. These individuals, accompanied by a job coach, utilize HCE's van three days per week to assist in upholstery cleaning.

These individuals are very excited about these new jobs. This month already two of the individuals were presented with awards for the caliber of their work performance at the hospital.



## *Seasons Greetings and Thanks to our Many Supporters!*

This is the time of the year when all of us take a little time out and reflect on our blessings. This past year, thanks to your support, Hudson Community Enterprises has been able to significantly expand employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Our social enterprise businesses are growing and more importantly this past year we have been able to create over 300 jobs for individuals with disabilities within these businesses. We look forward to the New Year and wish you and your families a very joyous holiday season.



